

the assessment is taken there actually is somebody there that you can...that the child or family can go to and the money can follow. And that would be our intent of helping the regions accomplish that goal.

SENATOR DAY: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Day. The Chair recognizes Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, thank you, Madam President, and members, I'm here also to speak on behalf of the detention centers that are currently in the areas of Wayne, Lincoln, Omaha and Scottsbluff and where local government fits in with state government with this bill. We have, in Scottsbluff, some of the opposite problems of what Senator Day is talking about. We have a juvenile detention center that has the programs, has the staffing, has been held...referred to as a Cadillac program when it comes to detention services in the State of Nebraska, but cannot access the kinds of funds that they need to continue those services. They're not available other than on a local level, that you have...we had a meeting with Senator Wickersham, Senator Matzke and myself, it was one of the latest ones, with several counties in the Panhandle that said they want to send their kids there. They like the services that are being had there, but, as a county, they're at their mill levy, that they feel there is nothing they can do financially to contribute to the center, so the detention center in Scottsbluff is looking at what is their future going to be. Do they need to eliminate all the programs? They were not there. The judges say that when it came time to place a child there were and still are no therapeutic foster homes. There is no residential care. They have no place to put these children except in that local detention center, which they want to do, but again the county comes back and said, we cannot afford all the services and the surrounding counties can also not help. Like Senator Day, I'm trying to determine where this bill is going to interface and work with local counties. Scottsbluff County currently has a lawsuit with DSS on services. It is being appealed and DSS is appealing it to the Supreme Court. I understand there's supposed to be a decision about the 17th of February on that particular area. We have two issues, one is programs and one is facilities, in my estimation. And, according to state law, from what I gather, is that the facilities are the responsibility of the state, or of the counties, I'm sorry, of the local political